

Glamp in an eco-friendly pod in Phnom Penh

Instead of pitching a tent in the Cambodian jungle, why not rent a cozy pod?



"I think more people are trying to connect with their surroundings and we need to find a way without causing damage – that's the point of my designs," says Teng Rithy, CEO of Glamping Pods Cambodia, a startup established in April focusing on providing low-impact, high-end accommodation in the form of space-saving cabins. Inspired by traditional Cambodian houses, these stylish capsules – which can be installed in rural retreats, eco-resorts and farms – are already being transported across the country to private owners. Teng plans to have units for rent eventually.

Available in a range of sizes, they vary from US\$7,500 for a large model (3m x 6m) to US\$3,500 for a smaller model (2.5m x 3m) and each takes three weeks to make. The minimalist pods are equipped with modern necessities

such as cooking facilities, bathrooms, living rooms, beds and air-conditioning. Architectural details include curved roofs and walls, or even sloping roofs.

"The designs depend on the environment – some are curved, some are triangular. We design them to fit into their habitat. A sturdy steel skeleton means the pods last for over 25 years and are entirely portable," Teng explains.

A new eco-resort in the popular beach-lined province of Kampot is keeping the team busy, with 20 pods on the way and another 50 in the making. Teng plans to make the rooms more multifunctional and in the meantime, the launch of his own eco-resort is also in the pipeline. But right now, he's focused on developing more pod models. fb.com/glampingpodcambodia – *Lily Crossley-Baxter*



Less than an hour from central London is the 4,047ha Lee Valley Park, which offers cocoons and cabins nestled among its trees. Available to couples and families, the heated hideaways have power sources and start at £35 per night. visitleevalley.org.uk



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AUCKLAND

Coast to Coast Walk

Covering 16km across Auckland from Waitematā to Manukau, this walk – part of the Te Araroa trail from the country's north to south – offers glimpses of parks, volcanic landscapes, and an old Maori village. aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Te Muri Beach

Check out this little-known haven, a 47-minute drive from central Auckland. Tucked between the sea and the cliffs, it's a relaxing, 3km, three-hour loop that's only accessible at low tide. newzealand.com/sg/article/te-muri-loop

Ōtuataua Stonefields Historic Reserve

This heritage site is spread over 100 hectares near the Auckland Airport. The three trails – Geology, Botany, and History – are 30-minute walks through volcano remnants, lava caves, forests and areas of early Maori occupation. aucklandcouncil.govt.nz